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Diana T Fritz 03/20/2007 03:39:54 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

December 01, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 5136 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR
Captions: None
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: BUSH'S IRAQ VISIT; SHARON'S GOVERNMENT
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 05136

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: PAO
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM
Laser1:
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER
DRAFTED: PAO:AHOSHAN
CLEARED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER

VZCZCADI226
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC
DE RUEHAD #5136 3351347
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 011347Z DEC 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2557
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0745
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0775
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 005136

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR MOC, GOLDRICH
PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: BUSH'S IRAQ VISIT; SHARON'S GOVERNMENT

1. SUMMARY: "AL-KHALEEJ" AND "GULF NEWS" FEEL THAT BUSH'S VISIT

TO IRAQ WAS A FAILURE, BOTH AS A MEANS TO BOOST THE LOW MORAL OF US TROOPS IN IRAQ AND AS A PUBLIC RELATION PLOY IN HIS REELECTION CAMPAIGN. ANOTHER EDITORIAL ALSO IN "AL-KHALEEJ" OPINES THAT SHARON'S US-BACKED GOVERNMENT HAS CLOSED ALL DOORS FOR PEACE AND IMPLICITLY CALLS ON ALL PALESTINIAN FACTIONS TO RECONSIDER THEIR CALCULATIONS AND USE ALL MEANS TO LIBERATE THE TERRITORIES. END SUMMARY.

12. UNDER THE HEADLINE "A FAILED VISIT", SHARJAH-BASED AND PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" 11/29 EDITORIALIZED:

"FOR BUSH TO VISIT IRAQ, THAT IS NORMAL AND POSSIBLE. NO ONE CAN DETER HIM OR PREVENT HIM. THE COUNTRY IS OCCUPIED FOR EIGHT MONTHS AND THE ABSOLUTE POWER IS IN THE HANDS OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNOR PAUL BREMER, AND BEHIND HIM ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND SOLDIERS EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST UP-TO-DATE AND ADVANCED WEAPONS IMPOSING THEIR CONTROL ON THE ENTIRE NATION AND ITS PEOPLE FROM THE NORTH TO THE SOUTH. HOW COULD THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO ARE TIRED AND SCARED DEAL WITH THIS VISIT, WHEN THEIR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ARRIVES IN A SITUATION CLOUDED BY AMBIGUITY AND SECRECY? HE CAME FAST AND LEFT FAST AND WAS NOT RECEIVED AS HE SHOULD AS A COMMANDER BY HIS OWN SOLDIERS AND NOT AS A LIBERATOR BY THE PEOPLE WHO HE CLAIMS TO HAVE LIBERATED TO LEAD THEM ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY. THE VISIT WAS NOT MEANT TO BOOST THE MORAL OF HIS SOLDIERS; THEREFORE, IT HAD ANOTHER GOAL RELATED TO THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND HIS AMBITIONS FOR A SECOND TENURE. THE VISIT WAS A PUBLIC RELATIONS GESTURE AIMED AT AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. EVEN THIS GESTURE MAY NOT BE IN HIS INTEREST AND MAY BACKFIRE BECAUSE THE PUBLIC WHICH SEES THEIR PRESIDENT BEHAVE IN SUCH A MANNER WILL BE OVERWHELMED WITH DOUBT REGARDING HIS POLICIES AND PRACTICES. FORMER PRESIDENT JOHNSON VISITED VIETNAM AND TOOK PICTURE WITH THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO WERE FIGHTING THERE, BUT THAT DID NOT DO HIM ANY GOOD WHEN HE DECIDED TO RUN FOR ANOTHER TERM. HAD BUSH STAYED WITH HIS FAMILY TO CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER THAN SNEAKING IN AS IF SCARED TO MEET WITH HIS ENRAGED AND FEARFUL SOLDIERS."

13. CHIEF EDITOR OF THE DUBAI-BASED ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY "GULF NEWS" WROTE 11/30:

"THE HEAD OF STATE OF THE STRONGEST NATION ON EARTH WILL NOT NORMALLY MAKE A SNEAKY AND PANICKY VISIT TO A COUNTRY WHICH IS WHOLLY OCCUPIED BY HIS TROOPS, UNLESS HE IS TERRIFIED AND UNSURE OF HIS OWN SAFETY. THAT WAS WHAT PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH DID WHEN HE SNEAKED INTO BAGHDAD TO TRY TO LIFT THE MORALE OF HIS SOLDIERS. BUT THE TRIP WAS COUNTER PRODUCTIVE BECAUSE BUSH APPEARS TO HAVE DEMORALIZED HIS TROOPS, AS THE VISIT WAS SURROUNDED BY LIES FROM THE ADMINISTRATION. IN DOING SO, BUSH HAS CONFIRMED THE ARAB SAYING: "TRYING TO IMPROVE IT, HE SPOILED IT.. THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION COULD HAVE ANNOUNCED BUSH'S VISIT IN ADVANCE AND AT THE SAME TIME TAKEN PRECAUTIONARY SECURITY MEASURES. I CANNOT SEE ANY CONTRADICTION IN SUCH A PROCEDURE GIVEN THE UNITED STATES' ENORMOUS MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE MIGHT. WITH SUCH A WELL-PREPARED VISIT, BUSH COULD HAVE SENT A STRONG MESSAGE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE AND TRIUMPH TO HIS DEMORALIZED FORCES IN IRAQ."

14. UNDER THE HEADLINE "THE ALTERNATIVE FOR PEACE", "AL-KHALEEJ" 11/30 EDITORIALIZED:

".SINCE THE SHARON GOVERNMENT HAS BLOCKED ALL DOORS BEFORE ANY EFFORTS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE, AND SINCE THE US PUBLICLY SIDES BY ISRAEL IN ITS AGGRESSION, THE PALESTINIAN FACTIONS AND ORGANIZATION SHOULD MAKE A NEW CALCULATION AND DEAL WITH THE OCCUPATION AS A REALITY THAT SHOULD BE ELIMINATED BY ALL MEANS AND TOOLS AVAILABLE... THE ALTERNATIVE BY ISRAEL AND AMERICA IS TO FORCE THE PALESTINIAN TO KNEEL DOWN, BREAK THEIR WILL AND IMPOSE SURRENDER ON THEM AND LATER ON ALL ARABS."

ALBRIGHT